

From: qgw
To: Microsoft ATR
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Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

I would just like to say that the proposed Microsoft Settlement is a really bad idea. I have read the entire thing and have come to the conclusion that not only does this proposed settlement do NOTHING to curb the Microsoft abuses, but it may even give them more power. One example: the proposed settlement says it will allow a vendor to ship a competing product in place of a Microsoft product. So, for example, a vendor would be allowed to ship Netscape instead of Internet Explorer. However, the proposed settlement goes on to say that Microsoft, and Microsoft alone, gets to dictate the requirements for the replacement component. This means two things: 1) Microsoft can stall a competitor indefinitely as it changes feature requirements or adds new ones and 2) Microsoft indirectly changes the competitors product. So if Microsoft says there must be a large ad at the top of every browser window that displays a Microsoft ad for their Internet Explorer, then it must be there. Or even worse, if Microsoft says that Active X (or something similar) has to be included, and it happens to be one of the things that is insecure, then that leaves every competitor's product insecure. Then there is the matter of Microsoft denying features in final products. They are already excluding Java because Sun would not let them sabotage it. Now, with this "Settlement", they could force Java out even among competitors.

Microsoft was found GUILTY. They committed a crime. They were bad. They lied and are still lying. What do you do with children that behave this way? You send them to their room without dessert. You ground them for a month. You spank them. You make them perform chores. What does this settlement propose we do with Microsoft? It suggests we thank them, give them more money, and say, "Sure Bill Gates. Its fine for you to break the law, ruin the competition, ruin the economy, ruin people's lives, lie, cheat, and steal. We don't punish the rich, especially those that line our pocket books."

This is wrong. Punish them.

Ben Renner
6033 E. 33rd St.
Tucson, AZ 85711

